

The National Fire Plan

USDA Forest Service, USDI Bureau of Land Management

FY 2001 Programs in Washington (revised 08/08/01)



Overview

Many National Fire Plan (NFP) activities are being planned and implemented in Washington. In response to the wildfires of 2000, the following actions are designed to reduce the risks and consequences of wildfires on communities, improve ecosystem health so that the effects of wildfires are not as severe, restore burned areas, and enhance firefighting capabilities. Accountability is a key element of the NFP, and every effort will be made to accomplish planned programs.

More than 185 communities in Washington are identified as wildland-urban interface areas that are at risk of catastrophic wildfire.

Strong coordination between agencies and governments is occurring in response to NFP goals. In Oregon and Washington partners are building a long-term strategy to maximize successful outcomes and reduce bureaucratic red tape. Those involved are: Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), Governor Kitzhaber's Staff, Washington Department of Natural Resources (WA DNR), Washington and Oregon State Fire Marshal's Offices, County Commissioner representatives, the Inter-Tribal Timber Council, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service (NPS), US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Forest Service (FS).

Estimated Allocations to Washington - National Fire Plan and Base Programs (\$ in thousands)

| | Firefighting | | Rehab and Restoration | Hazardous Fuel Treatment | Forest Health Projects | Community Assistance | | | | TOTAL |
|---------|--------------|------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| | Preparedness | Facilities | | | | State Fire Assistance | Volunteer Fire Assistance | Economic Action Programs | Comm'ty & Private Land Fire Assist.. | |
| USDA/FS | 17,442 | 1,120 | 0 | 1,515 | 215 | 2,850 | 325 | 932 | 1,230 | 25,629* |
| DOI/BLM | 255 | 0 | 0 | 459 | 0 | 0 | 170 | 0 | 0 | 884 |

Notes * Includes \$1,000,000 for Research and Development. Allocations to the Regional Office are not included in these figures.
 The FS Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area is included in the Oregon allocations, as it is headquartered in Oregon.
 The Umatilla NF is included in the Oregon allocations, as it is headquartered in Oregon

Community Efforts

Enhancing local community capacity to reduce wildfire risks and hazards, and expand local economic opportunities.

- Multiple state and federal community programs under the NFP will be combined for simplicity in the Pacific Northwest. Grant solicitations will be consolidated and selections will be made through an interagency/intergovernmental process beginning in May 2001.
- The Forest Service State Fire Assistance funding has been determined. It is anticipated Washington DNR will receive \$3,507,000 for fire preparedness and special wildland-urban interface projects in the state.
- Rural Fire Departments are highlighted in NFP funding distribution. The BLM has \$170,000 and the Forest Service has \$407,000 worth of grants specifically for training, equipping, and helping to organize local fire departments in Washington. These funds will be distributed through the consolidated NFP grant solicitation in March.
- The Forest Service will receive approximately \$6,169,000 for Oregon and Washington to be used for a variety of projects designed for local community benefit. Some of these funds will be passed through the Washington DNR to community users and other funds will be directly granted from the Forest Service. Many of the grants require a cost-share by the recipient. These funds will be added to other federal funds in the consolidated NFP grant solicitation in March. Emphasis areas for the Forest Service funding:
 - Economic Action Programs - technology for small diameter market enhancement, pilot projects, and community planning for fire protection.
 - Stewardship Programs - hazard mitigation on non-federal lands, and multi-resource stewardship projects.
- The BLM has special funding for wildland-urban interface projects that will be provided soon. These projects will be designed to reduce the risks and hazards of wildland fires to communities.

Improving Ecosystem Health

Targets hazardous vegetation treatment in wildland-urban interface areas.

- The Forest Service plans to treat approximately 21,198 acres of federal lands in Washington in 2001. In some cases, the Wyden amendment will be used to treat non-federal lands for increased benefit. This acreage goal is a blend of existing projects and new projects as a result of the NFP.
- Over 12,500 acres of accomplished treatments using Hazardous Fuel Reduction funding are entered into the National Database through 7/27/01.
- The Forest Service has received \$3.3 million to accomplish planned projects.
- The BLM plans to treat approximately 1,500 acres of federal lands in Washington in 2001. The Wyden amendment will also be used to treat non-federal lands where the opportunity exists. This acreage goal is a blend of existing projects and new projects as a result of the NFP.
- The BLM expects to receive a total of \$ 459,000 for Washington to accomplish planned projects.
- Treatment methods include prescribed burning, hand cutting and piling, mechanical thinning, mechanical crushing and mulching, and other ways to reduce excessive vegetation or "fuel."
- The Forest Service PNW Station has received \$1,500,000 for NFP related research and technology projects. Projects highlight predictive tools for fire and fuels programs, and predictive tools for quantifying smoke emissions.
- Federal regulatory agencies and land management agencies are working closely together to streamline consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. Their efforts portray a strong desire to seek efficiencies and new ways of accomplishing work together.
- Over \$3 million in additional Forest Health (insects and disease) funding was provided to the Forest Service to help meet NFP goals. All R6 funds will be used to suppress Tussock Moth infestations in

eastern Washington.

- Forest Service and BLM field units are seeking ways to complement ecosystem health treatments with state and local partners.

Rehabilitation and Restoration of Burned Areas

Projects designed to lessen the negative effects of wildfires from the summer of 2000.

- There are no projects that required BLM or Forest Service funding in Washington this year.

Firefighting Resources in Washington

Increased firefighting staff and equipment to improve the safety and efficiency of fire suppression efforts.

- Federal Preparedness Organizations
 - The Forest Service will have a total of 50 engines, 2 watertenders, 13 lookouts, 2 helicopters, 127 hand crew personnel, 24 fire dedicated prevention personnel, and 2 interagency hotshot crews in Washington.
 - The BLM will have a total of 1 engine. There is not very much BLM land in Washington, and most protection is procured through local fire fighting organizations.
- Workforce Development
 - In Washington, the Forest Service is hiring approximately 240 new positions; BLM is hiring about 5 new permanent, temporary and other positions.
 - Three Job Fairs were held in Washington to encourage people to apply for new Forest Service and BLM jobs.
 - Fire preparedness contracting opportunities will promote local employment.
- Fire Facilities
 - 6 FS facilities in Washington will be constructed or upgraded in 2001, estimated cost \$1,120,000.
 - No BLM facilities will be upgraded through the NFP.

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